THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • JANUARY 17, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 16 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

DJOKOVIC LOSES CASE, DEPORTED FROM AUSTRALIA

World No 1 leaves Melbourne after the Federal Court upholds government's decision to cancel his visa for the second time

APPLICATION 'DISMISSED WITH COSTS'

Chief Justice James Allsop dismissed the amended application with costs. It finally ended a 10-day legal drama since the the 34-year-old announced on social media that he had secured a 'medical exemption' to enter Australia. Djokovic could have technically appealed the decision at the High Court but decided against doing so | P11

SERBIAN 'DISAPPOINTED'

- In a statement, the Serbian said he was disappointed, "I am uncomfortable that the focus of the past weeks has been on me." He also said he will now rest and recuperate
- He had his visa cancelled as his presence could cause 'civil unrest because he's a talisman of anti-vaccination sentiment'

21

DJOKOVIC WAS GOING FOR AMEN'S RECORD 21ST SLAM TITLE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Hospitalisation under 4%: Study

Despite small sample size, the latest research representative of Omicron surge across India

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

FULL vaccination against Covid-19 or previous infection may not offer any substantial protection against the highly contagious Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2, but its hospitalisation rate is way low at less than 4%.

These were the takeaways from India's first epidemiological study on Omicron carried out by researchers associated with a leading government hospital. Their results, released on a pre-print repository of medical science, have also shown that Omicron was already in community circulation in Delhi in December — days after South Africa alerted the world about the variant — and underlined the limited impact of airport screening or curtailing flights from other countries.

Researchers associated with the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences in Delhi sequenced the genomes of 264 Covid-19 positive samples from five districts across the national capital and found 82 of them had Omicron. The rest were infected with the Delta variant that had fueled the devastating second Covid wave in India last summer. Though the sample size is small, the study is being viewed as a representative analysis of Omicron-driven surge in many parts of India.

The analysis of 264 patients who had tested positive between November 25 and December 23 last year found that 72 (or 88%) of the Omicron-infected patients had been fully vaccinated with either Covishield or Covaxin. Another patient had received two doses of the Moderna vaccine and a third dose of Covaxin. Only three among the Omicron patients required hospitalisation, and each had other underlying health conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure. None of them needed ICU care.

Hospitalisation rates during the earlier Covid-19 waves in India were 20-23%. Experts pointed out that the lower hospitalisation rates for Omicron documented in Delhi are in line with observations in South Africa, the UK and various other countries.

NATIONWIDE	JAN 15	JAN 16
Fresh cases	2,68,833	2,71,202
Recoveries	1,22,684	1,38,331
Deaths	402	314

KARNATAKA	JAN 15	JAN 16
Fresh cases	32,793	34,047
Recoveries	4,273	5,902
Deaths	7	13

K'TAKA ON VERGE OF 2L ACTIVE CASES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA is on the brink of crossing the 2 lakh-mark in active cases, of which Bengaluru alone has 1.46 lakh.

The last time the state had 2 lakh active cases – number of patients currently infected – was on June 11, 2021 with 2,03,769 infected at the time. However, the largest number of active cases that Karnataka has seen was 6,05,494 on May 15 last year during the second wave of the pandemic. It has remained the highest active caseload through all three waves of the pandemic so far. The highest active caseload during the first wave was on October 10, 2020 with 1.2 lakh cases. As on Sunday, the state had 1,97,982 active cases. But active hospitalised cases have been minimal at 2,356 – just 1.19 per cent of the total number of active cases.

Unlike in the first two waves when hospitalisation was much higher, the third wave has seen minimal hospitalisation, which the health officials attribute to the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus being "milder", besides the possibility of those infected by stronger variants showing milder symptoms due to the vaccination coverage.

CONTINUED ON: P3

TECH THAT

B'luru still start-up hub, 14 firms win national awards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BENGALURU retained its title of India's start-up hub with 14 companies being recognised at the National Start-Up Awards 2021.

In all, 46 start-ups from across the country were chosen, and 14 firms from Karnataka made up for 30 per cent of all the awards given this year, said IT-BT and Skill Development Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The 14 startups focus on agriculture, animal husbandry, education and skill development, enterprise systems, fintech, health and wellness, industry 4.0, transport and travel. The start-ups that received the national awards are Umbo Idtech, Athreya Global Solutions, Leucine Rich Bio, Rubanbridge, Nalla Innovations, Simplotel Technologies, Zentron Labs, Shapos Services, Stellapps Technologies, Steradian Semiconductors, Marketxpander Services, Blinkin Technologies and Thinkerbell Labs, the minister said.

Under the special categories, Tagbox Solutions stood out as being innovative during the Covid pandemic, having contributed in solving compliancy issues and other problems when it comes to tracking vaccine shipments. He said that 2,173 applications were submitted from across the country for the awards this year and of them, 549 were from Karnataka.

The minister said, "Based on the performance of start-ups, we give up to Rs 50 lakh as seed fund. We have so far funded 498 start-ups. Around 200 entities got funding this year." P4

To maintain the lead position of the state in the sector, the focus must be on digital education and skill development through effective implementation of the National Education Policy 2020

Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, IT-BT and Skill Development Minister

Drunk gunman of HC judge loses pistol, 10 live rounds

MG CHETAN @Bengaluru

IN a security lapse that has shocked and embarrassed the city police, a service pistol with ten live rounds has gone missing and could be in the possession of any miscreant.

The absurd incident came to light after a policeman deputed as a gunman to a High Court judge reported the firearm "stolen" on December 25.

In what appears to be a gross violation of rules, the gunman – Kallayya Mathapati, an ex-serviceman who joined the police force in 2019 – was proceeding on leave when the "incident" reportedly occurred at a travel agency on Tank Bund Road in Majestic around 7.30 pm on December 25.

Mathapathi was proceeding on a two-day leave, but instead of depositing the weapon with the department unit as per rules, he carried it along with the live rounds while leaving for his hometown in Vijayapura district.

CONTINUED ON: P5

EXPRESS READ

PM Modi to address WEF's Davos Agenda

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver a 'State of the World' special address at the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda on Monday via video conference, his office said.

3 children die after receiving measles vax

Belagavi: Three children died after receiving the measles and rubella vaccination in Belagavi district. In all, 21 children were given MR and other shots at in Ramdurg taluk on January 12. P5

Denied ticket, Punjab CM's brother to run as independent

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chandigarh

REVOLTS by netas denied poll tickets are no big deal, but when the brother of a chief minister throws a fit, it is bound to catch attention.

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's brother Dr Manohar Singh, who was denied a ticket to contest the elections, will fight as an Independent against the Congress candidate for the Bassi Pathana seat. Channi had unsuccessfully lobbied for his brother as the Congress refused to budge on the 'one ticket one family' formula.

However, the party gave tickets to the relatives of a few leaders. For example, Kamil Amar Singh, son of Fatehgarh Sahib MP Dr Amar Singh, has been fielded from Rajkot while Vikramjit Singh Chaudhary, son of Jalandhar MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary, was given the Phillaur ticket. Channi's brother is a medical practitioner who had quit the Kharar civil hospital to enter the poll fray.

A similar revolt arose in Goa where Utpal Parrikar, son of former Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar, was denied the Panaji Assembly seat by the BJP. Sensing an opportunity, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal said his party will welcome Utpal if he wishes to get onboard.

Closer EC watch on muscle power in election fray

KUMAR VIKRAM @New Delhi

THE Election Commission has created a separate cell dedicated to deal with matters pertaining to the criminal antecedents of candidates, in compliance with the Supreme Court's order on the issue. The poll panel has mandated that candidates as well as the concerned political parties issue a declaration in the media about their criminal background.

The poll panel has come up with a mobile application named 'Know Your Candidate', containing information regarding the criminal backgrounds as declared by candidates. Moreover, a dedicated fund has been created for voters' awareness campaigns and to make available the criminal history of the contesting candidates to the general public. Any fine imposed by the apex court on political parties regarding non-compliance of its orders will be deposited to the above fund. P8

First Super 500 title for Lakshya

Worlds bronze-medallist beats world champion Loh Kean Yew in straight games to claim India Open title. A look at some of the talking points...

BIG LAST FEW MONTHS

The former junior World No 1 has always advertised his talents and he's now making good on his promise. After reaching the final of the World Championships in December, he's now won his first Super 500 crown

TOP 10 BECKONS YOUNGSTER

The 20-year-old, who is World No 17, has a definite chance of making a run for the top 10 spot soon. Covid cases notwithstanding, he will also take part at the Syed Modi meet, a Super 300 meet. Win there as well and it's a possibility

SATWIK/CHIRAG MAKE IT A SWEET DOUBLE

The doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Chetty completed a sweet double from an Indian perspective with a fine win over Indonesia's Hendra Setiawan and Mohammad Ahsan

RESULTS
(only Indians, all finals)
Lakshya bt Loh Kean Yew 24-22, 21-17
Satwiksairaj/Chirag bt Ahsan/ Setiawan 21-16, 26-24

Lakshya Sen in action against Loh Kean Yew in the Yonex-Sunrise India Open in New Delhi on Sunday | AAI | PTI

TORQUE
TOREX
" don't bother for scars any more. "
To get blemish free skin use NO SCARS. It helps to reduce and remove, scars and marks.
ALOE VERA
NEEM
NO SCARS
Cleansing Face Wash
100% Pure Vegetarian Soap
Get dazzling Glamour with...
Long Lasting Premium Quality Soap
Nothing makes a woman more beautiful than the belief that she is beautiful. This belief paves the way to real beauty inside which reflects outside. NO SCARS BEAUTY SOAP helps making your skin look soft and radiant. The components of NO SCARS make it a wonderful moisturizer & provides nourishment to all the skin types.
PREMIUM QUALITY SOAP
NO SCARS
For more information, please contact : +91 97792 14455, +91 73199 35154 (Whatsapp) / care@torquepharma.com